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TO: The Secretary

FROM: HA - Stephen E. Palmer, Acting

Letter from Merrell Clark on U.S.
Human Rights Policy toward Argentina

Merrell Clark, President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, wrote to you on March 3 to comment on the Department's human rights report on Argentina and to urge that the U.S. continue to carry out a strong human rights policy toward Argentina. Mr. Clark specifically urged that the U.S. support strong action by the United Nations Human Rights Commission to deal with the problem of disappearances and with the general human rights situation in Argentina.

The Human Rights Commission decided in public session to establish a five-member working group of experts to address the problem of missing and disappeared persons. The U.S. Delegation played a leading role in the intensive consultations and negotiations which preceded the decision. We regard the establishment of this new procedure as a major achievement of this year's session.

The Commission also decided, under its confidential procedures, to keep the Argentine situation under review and to request the Argentine Government to respond to a series of questions on specific human rights issues. While we would have preferred

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Argentina
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 ACTION MEMORANDUM

SSR

March 17, 1980

(A1077)

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a stronger outcome, the fact that Argentina was being considered by the Commission for the first time apparently persuaded a majority to adopt the method chosen.

Recommendation

That you sign the attached letter to Mr. Clark.

Attachments:

1. Suggested letter to Mr. Clark.
2. Mr. Clark's letter of March 3.

Drafted: HA/HR: PJF²⁶ Mod: diw
21180 3/14/80

Clearances: HA: Mr. Salmon²⁶
IO/HR: Mr. Shaft²⁶
ARA/ECA: Mr. Whitman²⁶

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